

IMCOM Deputy CG visits Carlisle Barracks

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

IMCOM Deputy CG visits Carlisle Barracks



Tom Kelly, director of the Carlisle Barracks Public Works, discusses plans for the proposed renovation of Upton Hall with Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, deputy commanding general, IMCOM, while Lt. Col. William McDonough looks on. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.*

Eleven years after completing his USAWC education at Carlisle Barracks, Maj. Gen.

Reuben Jones returned as deputy commanding general of the Installation Management Command, Jan. 18 and 19.

“While Maj. Gen. Jones is a graduate of the USAWC, there have been numerous changes within IMCOM culture,” said Elaine Leist, deputy garrison commander, who helped familiarize Jones to the post today.

The garrison commander reviewed the request for funding for the renovation of Upton Hall, and updated Jones about personnel authorization for the gates here.

“Upton Hall is key to the campus modernization plan,” said Lt. Col. William McDonough, garrison commander. “Aesthetically this building looks very nice, but structurally it has problems that need to be fixed.”

“This building is worth keeping. It’s a great building,” said Tom Kelly, director of Carlisle Barracks Public Works, who offered details about the facilities during a tour of the building constructed for the Army Medical Field School in 1941. “They don’t build them like this now.”

If funded, Upton Hall would likely begin its two year renovation in 2014.

Due to Department of Defense funding constraints, Carlisle Barracks, like other military posts, is having difficulty securing the money to continue these much needed projects.

"Due to the current hiring freeze imposed by IMCOM, hiring of security guards is not possible at this time," said Bob Suskie, Director of Emergency Services. "However, we currently have sufficient security guards to maintain our current gate operational hours."

"Right now my guards are working overtime, which is affecting their morale," said McDonough.

Liz Knouse, director of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation, discussed with him plans for a new Youth Services building, behind the Moore Child Development Center.

"The drainage issues are progressing through the state, and the modular portions of the building are currently being built," said Knouse. "Maj. Gen. Jones has assured me that the new Youth Services building would not be programmed for another installation."

Last year when he was head of FMWR, Jones received briefing on the plans for Cumberland Café at the Army Heritage and Education Center. This visit was Jones' first chance to see the completed café, which opened up in November, as well as try the food.

Jones was also briefed on the improvements to the Root Hall Deli, as well as the plans for the demolition of Heritage Heights, familiarly known as "Smurf" housing, this summer as part of a two year long new housing construction project.

"This was an incredibly productive visit for this installation" said McDonough. "We were able to highlight some new initiatives and provide clarity and seek assistance for some festering issues."